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AM-TURNER 3-2

BY JACK R. PAYTON

A/DCI

NAPLES, ITALY (UPI) -- NEWLY APPOINTED CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER FLEW TO WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY LEAVING HIS COMMAND OF NATO'S SOUTHERN REGION WITH THE WARNING THAT "THERE IS HEALING YET TO BE APPLIED" TO THE REGION.

"THERE IS," HE SAID IN ADDITION TO THE APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE OVER CYPRUS; "A CONTINUING NEED TO IMPROVE OUR MILITARY READINESS IN ORDER TO DETER AN ADVERSARY WHOSE MILITARY STRENGTH CONTINUES TO EXPAND FOR REASONS WE CANNOT FATHOM."

GEN. ALEXANDER M. HAIG, NATO'S SUPREME COMMANDER IN EUROPE, PRESIDED OVER A CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY AND SAID TURNER HAD FORGED THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN COMMAND INTO AN EFFICIENT FORCE AFTER TAKING IT OVER 18 MONTHS AGO IN A STATE OF "APPARENT MALIGNANCY."

HE WISHED TURNER WELL IN HIS NEW JOB AS CIA DIRECTOR.

TURNER, A FOUR-STAR ADMIRAL, SAID HE WAS SORRY TO BE LEAVING HIS NATO COMMAND "BECAUSE THERE IS HEALING YET TO BE APPLIED TO THE CONTINUING DIVISIONS IN OUR PART OF THE ALLIANCE."

"BUT I DO NOT LEAVE WITH ANY SENSE OF PESSIMISM BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS ON ALL FRONTS. AS LONG AS WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY WE SHALL BE SAFE."

THE 53-YEAR-OLD CAREER MILITARY MAN, WHO GRADUATED IN SAME NAVAL ACADEMY CLASS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, WAS APPOINTED CIA DIRECTOR AFTER CARTER'S FIRST CHOICE FOR THE JOB, THEODORE SORENSEN, WITHDREW FOLLOWING OPPOSITION FROM U.S. SENATORS.

TURNER WAS REPLACED AS NATO SOUTHERN COMMANDER BY ITALIAN ADMIRAL LUIGI TOMASUOLO WHO ASSUMED THE JOB ON AN INTERIM BASIS UNTIL A NEW COMMANDER, AN AMERICAN ADMIRAL, IS CHOSEN.

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